

## MEMOIRS of General William T. Sherman.

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF

IN COMMAND IN KENTUCKY.

THE FAMOUS INTERVIEW WITH THE SECRETARY  
OF WAR.

The Story of Gen. Sherman's Insanity.

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## CHAPTER IX.—(continued.)

S FAST AS fresh troops reached Louisville they were sent out to me at Muldraugh's Hill, where I was endeavoring to put them into shape for service, and by the 1st of October I had the equivalent of a division of two brigades preparing to move forward toward Green River. The daily correspondence between Gen. Anderson and myself satisfied me that the worry and harassment at Louisville were exhausting his strength and health, and that he would soon leave. On a telegraphic summons from him, about the 5th of October, I went down to Louisville, when Gen. Anderson said he could not stand the mental torture

of his command any longer, and that he must go away, or it would kill him. On the 8th of October he actually published an order relinquishing the command, and, by reason of my seniority, I had no alternative but to assume command, though much against the grain, and in direct violation of Mr. Lincoln's promise to me. I am certain that, in my earliest communication to the War Department, I renewed the expression of my wish to remain in a subordinate position, and that I received the assurance that Brig-Gen. Buell would soon arrive from California, and would be sent to relieve me.

By that time I had become pretty familiar with the geography and the general resources of Kentucky. We had parties all over the State raising regiments and companies; but it was manifest that the young men were generally inclined to the cause of the South, while the older men of property wanted to be let alone—i. e., to remain neutral. As to a forward movement that Fall, it was simply impracticable; for we were forced to use divergent lines, leading our columns farther and farther apart; and all I could attempt was to go on and collect force and material at the two points already chosen, viz, Dick Robinson and

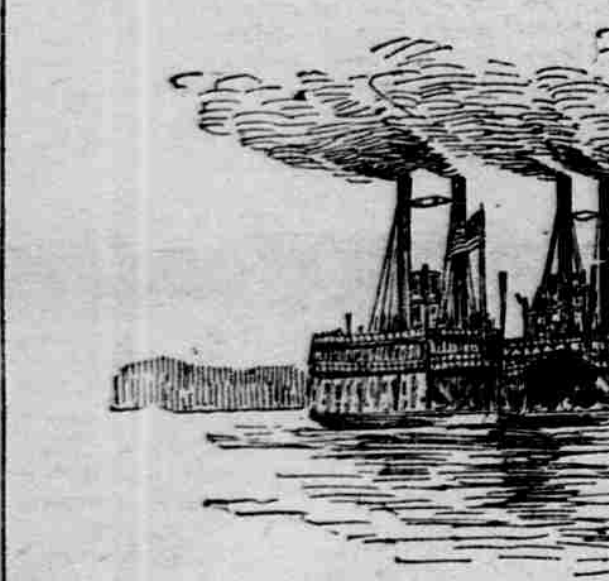


HON. SIMON CAMERON, SECRETARY OF WAR.

Elizabethtown. Gen. Geo. H. Thomas still continued to command the former, and on the 12th of October I dispatched Brig-Gen. A. McD. McCook to command the latter, which had been moved forward to Nolin Creek, 52 miles out of Louisville, toward Bowling Green. Staff officers began to arrive to relieve us of the constant drudgery which, up to that time, had been forced on Gen. Anderson and myself; and these were all good men. Col. Thomas Swords, Quartermaster, arrived on the 13th; Paymaster Larned on the 14th; and Lieut. Snyder, 6th Art., Acting Ordnance Officer, on the 20th; Capt. Symonds was already on duty as the Commissary of Subsistence; Capt. O. D. Greene was the Adjutant-General, and completed a good working staff.

THE EVERLASTING WORRY OF CITIZENS complaining of every petty delinquency of a soldier, and forcing themselves forward to discuss politics, made the posi-

tion of a Commanding General no sine cure. I continued to strengthen the two corps forward and their routes of supply; all the time expecting that Sidney Johnston, who was a real General, and who had as correct information of our situation as I had, would unite his force with Zollicoffer, and fall on Thomas at Dick Robinson, or McCook at Nolin. Had he done so in October, 1861, he could have walked into Louisville, and the vital part of the population would have hailed him as a deliverer. Why he did not, was to me a mystery then and is now; for I know that he saw the move, and had his wagons loaded up at one time for a start toward Frankfort, passing between our two camps. Conscious of our weakness, I was unnecessarily unhappy, and doubtless exhibited it too much to those near me; but it did seem to me that the Government at Washington, intent on the larger preparations of Fremont in Missouri, and Mc-



ARRIVAL OF NEGLEY'S TROOPS.

Clellan in Washington, actually ignored us in Kentucky. About this time, say the middle of October, I received notice, by telegraph, that the Secretary of War, Mr. Cameron (then in St. Louis), would visit me at Louisville, on his way back to Washington. I was delighted to have an opportunity to properly represent the actual state of affairs, and got Mr. Guthrie to go with me across to Jeffersonville, to meet the Secretary of War and escort him to Louisville. The train was behind time, but Mr. Guthrie and I waited till it actually arrived. Mr. Cameron was attended by Adj't-Gen. Lorenzo Thomas, and six or seven gentlemen who turned out to be newspaper reporters. Mr. Cameron's first inquiry was, when he could start for Cincinnati, saying that, as he had been detained at St. Louis so long, it was important he should hurry on to Washington. I explained that the regular mail-boat would leave very soon—viz, at 12 m.—but I begged him to come over to Louisville; that I wanted to see him on business as important as any in Washington, and hoped he would come and spend at least a day with us. He asked if everything was not well with us, and I told him far from it; that things were actually bad—as bad as bad could be. This seemed to surprise him, and Mr. Guthrie added his persuasion to mine; when Mr. Cameron, learning that he could leave Louisville by rail via Frankfort next morning early, and make the same connections at Cincinnati, consented to go with us to Louisville, with the distinct understanding that he must leave early the next morning for Washington.

We accordingly all took hacks, crossed the river by the ferry, and drove to the Galt House, where I was then staying. Brig-Gen. T. J. Wood had come down from Indianapolis by the same train, and was one of the party. We all proceeded to my room on the first floor of the Galt House, where our excellent landlord, Silas Miller, esq., sent us a good lunch and something to drink. Mr. Cameron was not well, and lay on my bed, but joined in the general conversation. He and his party seemed to be full of the particulars of the developments in St. Louis of some of Fremont's extravagant contracts and expenses, which were the occasion of Cameron's trip to St. Louis, and which finally resulted in Fremont's being relieved, first by Gen. Hunter and after by Gen. H. W. Halleck.

After some general conversation Mr. Cameron called to me,

"NOW, GEN. SHERMAN, TELL US OF YOUR TROUBLES." I said I preferred not to discuss business with so many strangers present. He said: "They are all friends, all members of my family, and you may speak your mind freely and without restraint." I am sure I stepped to the door, locked it to prevent intrusion, and then fully and fairly represented the state of affairs in Kentucky, especially the situation and numbers of my troops. I complained that the new levies of Ohio and Indiana were diverted East and West, and we got scarcely anything; that our forces at Nolin and Dick Robinson were powerless for invasion, and only tempting to a General such as we believed Sidney Johnston to be; that, if Johnston chose, he could march to Louisville any day. Cameron exclaimed: "You astonish me! Our informants, the Kentucky Senators and members of Congress, claim that they have in Kentucky plenty of men, and all they want are arms and money." I then said it was not true; for the young men were arming and going out openly in broad daylight to the rebel camps, provided with good horses and guns by their fathers, who were, at best, "neutral"; and as to arms, he had, in Washington, promised Gen. Anderson 40,000 of the best Springfield muskets, instead of which we had received only about 12,000 Belgian muskets, which the Governor of Pennsylvania had refused, as had, also, the Governor of Ohio, but which had been adjudged good enough for Kentucky. I asserted that volunteer Colonels raising regiments in various parts of the State had come to Louisville for arms, and when they saw what I had to offer had scorned to receive them, to confirm the truth of which I appealed to Mr. Guthrie, who said that every word I had spoken was true, and he repeated what I had often heard him say, that no man who owned a slave or a mule in Kentucky could be trusted.

MR. CAMERON APPEARED ALARMED at what was said, and turned to Adj't-Gen. L. Thomas to inquire if he knew of any troops available that had not been already assigned. He mentioned Negley's Pennsylvania Brigade, at Pittsburgh, and a couple of other regiments

which had been ordered by Mr. Cameron when at Louisville, and they were all that I received thereafter, prior to my leaving Kentucky. On reaching Washington Mr. Cameron called on Gen. Thomas, as he himself afterward told me, to submit his memorandum of events during his absence, and in that memorandum was mentioned my insane request for 200,000 men. By some newspaper man this was seen and published, and before I had the least conception of it

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The great difficulty is, and has been, that as volunteers offer, we have no arms and clothing to give them. The arms sent us are, as you already know, European muskets of uncouth pattern, which the volunteers will not touch. Gen. McCook has now three brigades—Johnson's, Wood's and Rousseau's. Negley's Brigade arrived to-day, and will be sent out at once. The Minnesota regiment has also arrived, and will be sent forward. Hazard's regiment of Indiana troops I have ordered to the mouth of Salt Creek, an important point on the turnpike road leading to Elizabethtown. I again repeat that our force here is out of all proportion to the importance of the position. Our defeat would be disastrous to the Nation, and to expect of new men, who never bore arms, to do miracles is not right. I am, with much respect, yours truly,

Brigadier-General commanding.

About this time my attention was drawn to the publication in all the Eastern papers, which of course was copied at the West, of the report that I was "crazy, insane and mad," that "I had demanded 200,000 men for the defense of Kentucky," and the authority given for this report was stated to be the

troops which had been ordered by Mr. Cameron when at Louisville, and they were all that I received thereafter, prior to my leaving Kentucky. On reaching Washington Mr. Cameron called on Gen. Thomas, as he himself afterward told me, to submit his memorandum of events during his absence, and in that memorandum was mentioned my insane request for 200,000 men. By some newspaper man this was seen and published, and before I had the least conception of it

I WAS UNIVERSALLY PUBLISHED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY as "insane, crazy," etc. Without any knowledge, however, of this fact, I had previously addressed to the Adjutant-General of the Army at Washington this letter:

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